

# e-Bugle

## Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 51

March 2004

No. 3

### Calendar

Thurs., Mar. 25	Salvation Army pickup of usable items	Mon., Apr. 5	Street sweeping begins
Sat., Mar. 27	Large item pickup; voter registration, Town Hall, 8 am–12 noon	Mon., Apr. 12	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Mar. 28	Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm	Tues., Apr. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Wed., Mar 31	Nominations for Town Council positions, Town Hall, 8 pm; update on Strathmore pedestrian safety	Sat., Apr. 17	Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sat., Apr. 3	Last day to register to vote in May elections, Town Hall, 8 am–12 noon	Fri., Apr. 23	Film Society, <i>The War Room</i> , Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sun., Apr. 4	Daylight Saving Time begins; change those clocks!	Wed., Apr. 28	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; Candidates' Forum
		Sun., May 2	Cambria Park cleanup day, 10 am–3 pm
		Mon., May 3	Town Council election, Town Hall, 7–11 am, 4–7:30 pm

### Town Administrator Notes

**Citizens Association Meeting:** Please plan to attend the Citizens Association meeting in the Town Hall on March 31 when nominations for the May 3 Town Election will be made. The Mayor and two Council seats are up for election this year. Mayor Peter Benjamin has announced that he will not be seeking re-election.

**State Tax Form:** This is really important. When filling out your state income tax forms, please remember to write Garrett Park in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area." This

ensures our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to Maryland counties, incorporated cities, and towns.

**Voter Registration—May Elections:** The *last day* for Voter Registration for the May 2004 elections is April 3. If you need a registration form, please pick one up at the Town Office during normal office hours (8 am to 4 pm), the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or the Post Office. Noncitizen residents of Garrett Park who are not

*(continued next page)*

Garrett Park Citizens Association  
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

already on the Town's voters list and who wish to vote in the May election must also register by April 3 at the Town Office. The Town Office will be open from 8 am to noon on Saturday, March 27 and April 3, for those who are unable to come in during the week.

**FY 2005 Budget.** Copies of the introduced fiscal year 2005 budget are available in the Post Office on the copier table. If those run out, please come by the Town Office for a copy.

**Walk Smart/Drive Safely.** As the weather improves, Garrett Parkers often stroll through the town to enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Walkers, please remember to be mindful of turning vehicles, wear light colors or reflective clothing to be more visible at night, and obey traffic signs, signals, and street crossing markings. Drivers, please yield to pedestrians, observe posted speed limits, and—as usual—be courteous.

**Permits:** If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. Please call the Town Office for a permit application, copies of the setback ordinance, and any other information.

Ted Pratt,  
Garrett-park@comcast.net, 301-933-7488

## GIVES

This is the last month that the Citizens Association will be attaching GIVES envelopes to the *Bugle*. Thereafter, please look in the Post Office for envelopes on the counter and please contribute whatever you can to keep the very worthwhile program going until we open our new Penn Place and can resume our monthly collections in the lobby outside the Post Office. Remember please that this is a Garrett Park charity organization started in 1974 and that your contributions go to help feed the homeless and help the less fortunate. For more information, call Glenda Ingham or Henny McDowell.

## Peanuts!

Have you been wondering what that huge barrel in the post office is all about? You might have noticed that it is full of Styrofoam packing peanuts. This project, "Take a Peanut, Leave a Peanut," is a new system that I am introducing into the community. You can help save the environment by recycling your peanuts with the rest of Garrett Park. All you have to do is

1. bring a bag with you to the post office, and fill it up with peanuts from the barrel;
2. use the peanuts to send your package; and
3. when you next receive a package in the mail, empty the peanuts into the barrel for the next resident to use!

It is that easy. By participating in this project, you are receiving free peanuts, giving away peanuts, and helping the environment. If there were more projects like this, then there would be less Styrofoam thrown away, and we could help repair the world.

Leah Abrams

## Host Families Needed

The Washington-Ireland Program for Service and Leadership (formerly Young Leaders) is seeking host families for university students from Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. The students will arrive on June 12 and depart August 8. The program brings together Catholic and Protestant young adults in order to further the process of peace in Northern Ireland. The students have a full schedule of internships, workshops, meetings, and social events.

Our neighborhood is an excellent location, as we are close to the District and Metro bus and rail service on which these students depend to get to their internships. The program can offer references of many area families who have participated, but more families are needed! If you have an interest in this exciting program and a spare bed or two, please call Terry Abel Eason at 301-657-4343 for details.



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

#### Citizens Association Officers:

Co-presidents: Gene Brantly  
Jack Mandel  
Vice president: Matt Stavish  
Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi  
Secretary: Laura Krupp  
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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mary Moyer, Box 98, or by email. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

## Garrett Park Elementary

Last call to register kindergarten students for next year. If you have a child who is of the right age to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2004 (5 years old on or before *October 30, 2004*), please call the school (301-929-2170) now to get on the list for Kindergarten Orientation, which will be held this year on April 1 and 2. If you have a child who has been in all-day kindergarten elsewhere and will be coming to GPES for first grade, please call the school ASAP to get the paperwork started.

Townpeople are invited to attend a performance of *The Music Man* by the Musical Theatre Club students on Tuesday, March 30, at 7:30 pm in the multi-purpose room. Admission is free.

Mary Moyer

## Nursery School News

The members of Garrett Park Nursery School are excited to announce the school's new website: [garrettparknurseryschool.org](http://garrettparknurseryschool.org). All alumni are encouraged to log on and make sure the site contains their current addresses, so they can be contacted about events such as the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To mark this milestone, the Nursery School will be hosting an anniversary silent auction celebration on Saturday, May 1, 2004, from 6 to 10 pm at the Town Hall. For information, go to the website or contact Theresa Stavish.

## Edlund Book Signing

We are happy to report that the book signing on February 29 was a great success, and a good time was had by all. We were blessed with beautiful weather, the Town Hall was filled to capacity, and Paul sold *all* his books. Thank you to everyone who attended, to the Women's Club for sponsoring the event and the champagne, to those who contributed their time, food, flowers, etc., and to those who bought books. If you wish to order a book (either hard cover or paperback) you can try [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [borders.com](http://borders.com), [xlibris.com](http://xlibris.com), or Xlibris by phone at 1-888-795-4274, ext 276. Also there are a few colored prints of Donal McLaughlin's beautiful poster left for sale. Call Glenda Ingham.

## Green Again!

We give a heartfelt thanks to Ellen Gott for this month's green. She gives it in memory of her father, Jack Gott. We thank you, Ellen (and Joe and Marge), for your thoughtfulness.

Because of the envelope in the January issue, more people than usual have paid their Citizens Association dues for this year (and some even paid twice!). If you still didn't send yours in, we'll take it at any time: \$5 for each individual, or \$10 for the whole household at each residence. Please mail your check to Box 456.

Mary Moyer

## Obituary

### Roger Pope

Former Garrett Park resident Roger Pope passed away last summer at age 88. Roger, Barbara, Carl, and Leigh lived on lower Rokeby until some 20 years ago, when Roger and Barbara moved to Santa Barbara and, later, to the Bay area. Roger grew up in Cleveland Park. He received a law degree from the University of Michigan, where he and Barbara met.

During World War II, he commanded a Navy Armed Guard aboard a Merchant Marine vessel. He spent his entire civilian career as an attorney with the Rural Electrification Administration of the USDA.

Roger served as a Town Councilman from 1959 to 1961, and was a member of the Garrett Park/Garrett Park Estates Recreation Board, the Town Planning Committee, the Charter Review Committee, and the Garrett Players. In the latter group, he acted in several plays and was active behind the scenes.

Don Chrisler

## No Spring House Tour

The house tour "Garrett Park through the Decades" will not be held this spring, the major reason being that we had a great deal of trouble getting people willing to commit to having their houses on tour at this time. We had hoped to have a representative house from each decade, but we had difficulty finding houses that illustrated this theme. (One committee member quickly counted 31 families that had turned her down!)

Many thanks, however, for valiant efforts to committee members who met, researched potential houses, solicited houses, planned, and volunteered for numerous tasks: Nancy Schwartz, Carol Davies, Steve Lillie, Henri Keller, Andy Serfelis, Gerilee Bennett, Jane Salomon, Carolyn Shwaker, Barbara Shidler, and Els Benjamin. Thanks also to the town's Historic Preservation Committee, which was cosponsoring the tour.

Major thanks and hats off to residents who did volunteer to have their houses on the tour: Art and Gerilee Bennett, Stan and Jane McLeod, Nick and Laura Retherford, Margaret Goldsborough and Max Faulkner, Donal McLaughlin (assisted by Susan Alexander), Tom and Elaine Kennedy, and Paul and Mary Jane Edlund.

Even though time ran out this spring, we may try again next fall or next year, maybe with a revised theme or perhaps a changed format, such as a walking tour with brochures highlighting Garrett Park's rich architectural history. We're open to suggestions and help.

Elin Quigley,  
Women's Club





## Arboretum Notes

Tom Rodes will chair the Garrett Park Arboretum Committee, which met recently to discuss plans for the coming year. Tree plantings to replace those lost either to age or Isabel are the committee's first concern. The committee is seeking new sources for trees that will add beauty and diversity to the town landscape. Your ideas on this are welcome. There is still room for new members on the committee. Please call Ted Pratt in the Town Office if you're interested in working on it.

### Cambria Park Day

Spring cleanup time is coming for Cambria Park on Sunday, May 2, from 10 am to 3 pm. Your help with pulling weeds and putting in new plants is welcome. Come anytime and for as long as you can. Garden tools will be available—but yours are also welcome.

Garrett Park Arboretum Committee

### Walking with Gus

It's a beautiful spring morning, and we're on our usual trek around town from home base on Raleigh Avenue. Past the swimming pool and up the hill along Cambria Park. The puschkiniana aren't up yet, but I see that Kay Hager's tiny yellow spring flowers are. What's their name? I'll ask her one more time; she never seems to lose patience with me.

Gus meets a friend. They tangle leashes, sniff at each other, and start to play. Gus loves this. He loves anybody and everybody who will play with him—dogs, cats, kids, grownups, rabbits—but not squirrels and deer, who are too haughty, or birds, who are too flighty. Gus is a pug with short bowed legs who looks from behind like a tiny rhino. I love to watch his peculiar behaviors, which fall into two basic modes: sniff and balk. When he balks, he puts his front paws forward, hunkers back, and makes a terrible face. But don't be fooled. He just wants to play. We meet a friend who greets him effusively and he laps it up.

Now we're passing Bob and Barb Flanders' house. They have the earliest and biggest snow drops in town. We round the corner of Clermont Place to be greeted by clusters of gorgeous purple crocuses. Gus seems intent on sniffing every new blade of grass. My own mode on our walks is no more complicated. I pick up every piece of garbage I see and throw it in the nearest trashcan. Soda and beer cans, candy wrappers, cigarette packs, paper, plastic, orange peels. Piles of stuff. I want to blame it on the construction workers, but in fact, the stuff is all over town. Nope. It's us.

I remember a story. When Thailand opened up its wonderful tropical forests to trekking, one returned hiker told me the forest he walked was littered with junk—bottles and bags that guides were discarding along the trail. When Thai officials were advised this would be the ruin of their tourism industry, lo, the forest was cleaned up.

We can do the same here. Be careful about our throwaways. Even go the next step and pick up the junk somebody tossed in our yard or along our path. This little forest we live in is just too nice to spoil.

Art Heyman,  
Arboretum Committee Member

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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ More Dean's List students come from our town! Colin Stewart and Jason Kapit, who are at Tufts, Chris Moyer at Montgomery College, Aaron Unterman at the University of Maryland, Jason Meyersburg at the University of Vermont, and Tyler Allard at Princeton. We've raised a bunch of intellectuals?
- ♪ If you have a school-aged child needing care over the summer, Mary Clark has an experienced sitter who may be able to provide care in Mary's home on Clermont Place. Call Mary for details.
- ♪ Last chance to make your prediction of the date when the Post Office will open in the new Penn Place. For \$1, you can tell Matt Stavish (301-946-7082) what date you think is the most likely. April 1 (no, that's not an April fool) will be the last date to let him know. The person choosing a date closest to the actual opening will take home the kitty.
- ♪ The Association of Professional Landscape Designers established a local chapter and is interested in providing networking and educational opportunities. Its website ([www.apld.org](http://www.apld.org)) provides consumers with information and resources to identify qualified designers in the area.
- ♪ If you haven't had the chance yet, go see Jane Salomon's exhibit, "Material Things," at the Left Bank Cafe, 4731 Wisconsin Avenue. The exhibit will be there until March 27.
- ♪ By now construction should be 75 percent complete on the Strathmore Music Center. Most of the work will now be done inside. The Afternoon Teas are continuing at the hall. There will be special Japanese teas on April 13 and 14. Reservations are a must (301-530-0540).

## Musicale March 28

### Music to Our Ears

The spring musicale, featuring residents in all their musical splendor, will be returning to the Town Hall on March 28 at 4 pm. Tickets or reservations are required, since seating is limited. The suggested donation is \$8 per person, and you may call Meme Lincoln to make a reservation. The proceeds from this benefit go to the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship. This will be the seventh year that a child has had an opportunity to study something that he or she might not otherwise be able to do. This year's scholarship winner will be announced on the last day of school. Come support music education and hear some varied and different music at the same time.

Mary Moyer

### Townpeople Pour from Houses Clutching Instruments

This town is crawling with musicians. Pianists, clarinetists, guitarists, singers, violinists—the place is lousy with them. Some of these people are self-taught (I am an untutored but dedicated pianist), and others are professionally trained.

Ilah Gieser, a great and good Garrett Parker who died a few years ago, was also a lover of music, and in a gesture of generosity she conceived the idea of an annual \$1,000 scholarship to fund a year's private lessons for a worthy young musician in the local community.

For the last seven years, in honor of Ilah, the Women's Club has put on a fundraising musicale for her scholarship, featuring some of Garrett Park's many instrumentalists and vocalists—and also featuring some musicians from the larger community who have ties to Garrett Park. Per-

formers range in age from 10 to 80, and the music similarly ranges: there's opera, folk, Broadway, classical, bluegrass, etc. There's always a good deal of sing-along stuff too, some of it the subversive material you'd expect from the People's Republic of Garrett Park (Pete Seeger), some of it apolitically rousing.

Your ticket to this event helps pay for the scholarship and at the same time admits you to the fun spectacle of your fellow Garrett Parkers—from amateurs to the highly trained—doing their thing. The Garrett Park Singers, the town vocal group, already internationally known for their weird deep pellucid harmonies (no, wait—that's the Bulgarian Women's Chorus), will as always take part as well.

I am a cynical hardbitten unemotional person, but every time I take part in this event I am transformed into a softhearted idealistic lover of humanity. Hope to see you there.

Margaret Soltan

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## Letter from the Mayor

It is the time of year that I write to you about next year's budget, which we are preparing. I know that budgets are not exciting subjects, but the services we put in our town budget determine our property tax rates and our waste collection fees. And budgets reveal much about the town's policies and priorities. There are four policy issues that were decided by the Council in proposing our fiscal year 2005 budget, which takes effect this July:

- dealing with reduced revenue rates,
- integrating Penn Place into the town budget,
- using town employees and equipment for town services, and
- establishing fees for use of town facilities and land.

I will discuss each of these briefly. First, our revenues. We suffer from the same malady as all other governments in difficult economic times: reduced receipts. This is aggravated by the federal government offloading some of its costs on states, states reducing support for counties and municipalities, and counties charging more for services to towns while sharing less revenue. We are at the bottom of the food chain. Not only do we have reduced income tax revenues because of lower capital gains returns by town residents, but the state has reduced the transportation revenues it provides to towns, and Montgomery County has increased fees, such as those for waste disposal. We have responded first by cutting the costs of town services wherever possible without reducing the essential services that our residents expect to receive. We have retained our property tax rate at the current level, which, with increased assessments, results in a bit more revenue. We have also adjusted the refuse and recycling fee by about \$30 per household to account for the county's increased charges for dumping.

Penn Place is an integral part of the town's life, and its three major tenants (the Post Office, the café, and the Town Offices) are there to provide much-needed services to our residents. Because of this, it just does not make sense to segregate Penn

Place's finances into a separate enterprise fund, have the town pay rent to itself, and distinguish in the budget between services by town employees or contractors to the town and those to Penn Place. Thus we have counted rents by Penn Place tenants as town income and the cost of plowing the parking lot as town expenses.

There is a distinct benefit to the town from using town employees to provide some of the services that are contracted for at present. The greater dedication of our staff, their knowledge of the town, and the enhanced control we have over the results make it attractive to have them do snow plowing, lawn mowing, and similar activities. However, this requires the town to own or lease the required equipment, store and maintain that equipment, and develop backup plans in case the town equipment fails when needed or the limited staff are not available. We have begun moving in the direction of greater use of town staff by purchasing a lawn mower this year and by budgeting the purchase of a new town truck equipped with a plow in the upcoming year. However, to move much further requires a more detailed maintenance plan and the siting, design, and construction of enhanced storage and maintenance facilities. We have included funds to do this study in the proposed budget.

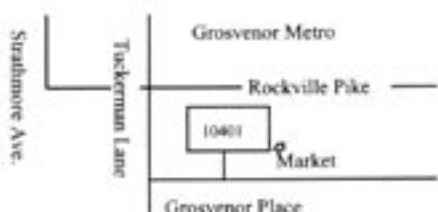
Finally, we have increased fees for the use of the Town Hall to provide additional revenues and to reflect a substantial underpricing relative to the market. Residents still have much lower charges, and town activities are free. We plan to develop a similar schedule of fees for the commercial use of town properties. We believe that we have developed a fiscal year 2005 budget that is responsible, thoughtful, and consistent with the town's needs. The proposed budget was introduced as an ordinance at the March Town Council meeting and is posted in the Post Office. There will be a hearing on the tax rate and on the budget at the next Town Council meeting, April 12. All Town Councilmembers and I welcome comments from you now and at the meeting.

Peter Benjamin, Mayor

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